

Message Text

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TO OAU COLLECTIVE

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QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 0033

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OAU

SUBJ: OAU SECRETARY GENERAL'S NEW YEARS MESSAGE

SUMMARY: ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY SECGEN

WILLIAM ETEKI MBOUMOUA IN OAU TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE CALLED ON AFRICANS TO MAKE 1978 A YEAR OF SELF-CONFIDENCE. HE TOOK NOTE OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING THE CONTINENT, AND SHAMELESS INTERVENTION BY THOSE WHO ARE STILL DREAMING OF DESTABILIZING AFRICA. HE POINTEDLY REITERATED CHERISHED OAU PRINCIPLES OF SOVERIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, INDEPENDENCE, AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF STATES. ETEKI SAID THE SUPREME MISSION OF THE OAU WAS TO REMIND MEMBERS "UNOBLIGINGLY" TO ADHERE TO PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES OF CHARTER AND EXERT ITSELF AS FORCE

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AGAINST DISUNION. ETEKI'S MESSAGE GENERALIZED ENOUGH TO APPLY TO NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZING THEM BY NAME. ALSO, REFERENCE TO EXTERNAL INTERVENTION DID NOT SPECIFY ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRIES AND COULD BE READ TO MEAN ALMOST ANY NON-AFRICAN STATE. IN SUM, MESSAGE ATTEMPTED TO RAISE AFRICAN ISSUES WITHOUT ANTAGONIZING ANYONE WHICH DIF-

FICULT PROPOSITION CONSIDERING CURRENT AFRICAN DISPUTES.
END SUMMARY.

1. OAU SECGEN ETEKI CHARACTERIZED PAST YEAR
AS ONE IN WHICH DELAYED-ACTION EXPLOSIVE SHAMELESSLY
LEFT BEHIND BY COLONIZER TO BURST. HE FURTHER STATED
IT WAS YEAR OF SHAMELESS INTERVENTIONS (SIC) WITH VIEW
TO EXPLOITING DISSENSION BETWEEN AFRICAN STATES. ETEKI
WENT ON TO CITE DEHUMANIZING PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA. ECONOMICALLY, ETEKI DESCRIBED PAST YEAR AS ONE
OF PERSISTENT INFLATION, MONETARY INSTABILITY, EXHOR-
BITANT BURDEN OF DEBTS, DOWNWARD FLUCTUATION OF BASIC
COMMODITIES' PRICES, LACK OF PROGRESS IN PARIS NORTH-
SOUTH DIALOGUE AND IN GENEVA GENERAL SYSTEM OF PRICE
STABILIZATION TALKS AND AS ONE OF NATURAL CALAMATIES
AFFLICTING CONTINENT SUCH AS DROUGHT.

2. PERHAPS WITH CURRENT DISPUTES IN MIND, ETEKI RE-
ITERATED THOSE ELEMENTS FROM OAU CHARTER PREAMBLE
WHICH ORIGINALLY WRITTEN TO SAFEGUARD AND CONSOLIDATE
AFRICAN STATES' INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, AND INTE-
GRITY. HE EMPHASIZED TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, NON-
INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND RESPECT FOR
SOVERIGNTY OF EACH STATE. HE STATED OAU BELIEVED
IN PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BY NEGOTIATION,
MEDIATION, CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION. HE SAID
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THE OAU IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE MORAL AND INSPIRED
AUTHORITY TO SETTLE DISPUTES PROLIFERATING BETWEEN
COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, WHEN THESE COUNTRIES ARE DIVIDED,
PULLED ABOUT, OR MANIPULATED, THEY CREATE CONDITIONS
WHICH NOT LONG AGO FAVORED COLONIALISM AND DOMINATION.
THEREFORE, IT INCUMBENT UPON OAU TO STRENGTHEN ITS
MORAL AUTHORITY AND THUS WARRANT RESPECT AND CREDI-
BILITY, ESPECIALLY ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES.

3. ETEKI CONCLUDED BY CALLING ON OAU MEMBER STATES
TO MAKE 1978 THE YEAR OF SELF-CONFIDENCE -- CONFICENCE
IN STRUGGLE FOR TOTAL LIBERATION OF AFRICA, IN EF-
FORTS TO HARMONIZE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, IN GREATER
SOLIDARITY AMONG STATES, AND FINALLY CONFIDENCE IN THE
FAITH OF AFRICA TO LIBERATE HERSELF AND REINSTATE HER
DIGNITY.
MATHERON UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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